

Bishkek International School

LEARNING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & COUNSELLING TEAM 2026/2027

Inclusive education is a core commitment of BIS, with all staff involved in supporting the diverse needs of individual students, and several staff with specific skills and experience in meeting different needs. Leading this approach, we have a dedicated Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) team to ensure that needs are met.

Learning Diversity, Inclusion & Counselling Coordinator



Kyzjibek Tekenova

Ms. Kyzjibek graduated from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University and has a Diploma in Theory and Practice of Translation. She taught English before joining BIS as a teacher in summer 2017. In summer 2018 Ms. Kyzjibek joined the LDIC team, where her outstanding commitment to all areas of LDIC led to her appointment as Deputy LDIC Coordinator in 2022, and as LDIC Coordinator in summer 2023. Ms. Kyzjibek is also currently studying a Masters of Education in Special Education Needs and Disability with Middlesex University London.

Learning Diversity & Inclusion Support Teacher



Branka Kovacevic

Ms. Branka holds a Master's degree from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy at the University of Belgrade. With over 19 years of teaching experience, she has worked in a variety of educational settings, including the Business Technical College, a STEM-oriented high school in Serbia, and the IB Anglo-American School in Moscow. During her time in Moscow, she collaborated closely with the Special Educational Needs Department, supporting IB PYP learners with diverse learning profiles. She earned the ECIS Certificate in 2020, completed the SEND Diploma and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) certification in 2023, and in 2024 completed the Understanding Dyslexia Diploma, Supporting Students with Dyscalculia certification, and IB Mathematics Category 1. Ms. Branka joined the BIS team in January 2023 as a Learning Support Teacher and PYP/MYP Mathematics Teacher. She is passionate about helping students build confidence and succeed in mathematics.

Learning Diversity & Inclusion Support Teacher



Marc Garreta

Mr. Marc graduated as a psychologist in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain and also holds a master degree in Learning Difficulties and Disorders from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He has teaching experience in Spain, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Marc loves teaching his own language as well as supporting diverse students to include them in the learning environment. He joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Learning Diversity & Inclusion Support Teacher / Educational Psychologist



Ekaterina Tolkacheva

Ms. Ekaterina holds a Bachelor's degree from the Moscow State Linguistic University in Educational Psychology, a Master's Degree in Economic Psychology from Lomonosov Moscow State University and postgraduate qualifications in Children's Clinical Psychology and EMDR therapy. Before joining BIS she worked as a Primary School Psychologist in international and private schools in Russia. At BIS, she is committed to fostering students' emotional well-being, resilience, and inclusive learning so that every child can thrive. Ms. Ekaterina joined the BIS team in summer 2026.

Learning Diversity & Inclusion Support Teacher



Kana Naito

Ms. Kana has a Bachelor's degree in Primary Education. She has experience working as a JICA Volunteer in a primary school in Senegal, as well as teaching in a Japanese public primary school. She also worked at JICA Tokyo, engaging in volunteer programs and education development projects. Ms Kana has a strong interest in international cooperation and inclusive education, and is committed to providing quality education to all children. She believes that shared learning and mutual support across cultures are essential to building better education. Ms Kana joined BIS in May 2025.

Literacy Specialist



Beldine Loyan

Ms. Beldine holds a Bachelor of Education (Arts) from the University of Nairobi and is trained in print-to-speech and speech-to-print approaches, including EBLI, OG, and UFLI. She is also a certified Orton-Gillingham teacher through OGOA and experienced in administering and interpreting literacy assessments. Before joining the BIS team in August 2025, she worked in Kenya as a literacy intervention teacher, specializing in inclusive education and advocating for learners with diverse needs.

Behaviour Specialist



Diana Saitbaeva

Ms. Diana holds a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology with a specialization in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. She is a Certified Behavioral Analyst with more than 10 years of professional experience working with children and adolescents with a wide range of developmental, behavioral, emotional, and neurological conditions. Throughout her career, she has supported children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), ADHD, learning differences, anxiety disorders, speech and developmental delays, and other special educational and psychological needs. Her work focuses on evidence-based interventions, behavioral support strategies, emotional regulation, parent guidance, and individualized developmental planning. Ms. Diana joined the BIS team in summer 2026.

Learning Support Teacher / Assistant Councillor



Mira Satarova

Ms. Mira graduated from Kyrgyz Turkish University Manas with a degree in Public Relations, and her passion for inclusion began in her teens through volunteer work at special centers. During her undergraduate studies, she worked with a Korean charity supporting inclusive education for children. Currently pursuing a Master's in Applied Psychology at AUCA and Bard College, New York, Ms. Mira has also contributed to human rights initiatives funded by the UN and OSCE, focusing on child protection. Outside of work, she enjoys Japanese taiko drumming, reflecting her dedication to cultural and community engagement. Ms. Mira joined BIS in 2023.

One-to-one Learning Support Assistant



Bermet Kumarbekova

Ms. Bermet is a Psychology graduate from Ala-Too International University, with practical experience working with children and students in both educational and psychological settings. During her internship at a school, she assisted the school psychologist with assessments of primary school students, individual consultations, and workshops for students and teachers. She has also worked with children with ASD, developmental delays, and ADHD at a children's developmental center, and has several years of experience teaching English online on a one-to-one basis, helping students build confidence in their language skills. She studied abroad through an exchange program in Romania and spent a year studying Psychology at The Education University of Hong Kong. Ms. Bermet joined the BIS team in September 2026.

High School Counsellor



Zhamal Dzhumashova

Ms. Zhamal holds a Master's degree in Counseling and School Psychology from Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), as well as a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the American University of Central Asia. Her professional experience includes providing mental health services to adolescents and adults in both local and international settings. She has worked with diverse student populations, supporting their mental health, well-being and academic adjustment. In addition, she has been actively involved in mentoring students and delivering psychoeducational programs. Ms. Zhamal joined the BIS team in summer 2026.

Lead Counsellor & Middle School Counsellor



Asmana Matraimova

Ms. Asmana graduated from Goldsmiths University of London with a BSc in Psychology and Clinical Psychology. After graduating she worked as an English as a Second Language teacher in South Korea for two years, before completing a MSc in Mental Health Studies at King's College University of London. Since 2022 she has been living in Bishkek and completed a counselling internship at AUCA in 2023, and continued to work with adult clients there, while also working as a school counsellor. Ms. Asmana is happy to be back in her home country and hopes to spread awareness and improve mental health care. She joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

Primary School Counsellor



Zhibek Kenzhebaeva

Ms. Zhibek graduated from the American University in Central Asia in 2021 with a Master's degree in Applied Psychology. She has experience supporting both children and adults at Psychological Support Center of AUCA. Ms. Zhibek is the co-author of a book chapter in *Uyat and the Culture of Shame in Central Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) and a research article in *Consortium Psychiatricum* (2022). She enjoys reading books, watching movies and playing with kids. Ms. Zhibek joined the BIS team in summer 2021.